

## REMARKS

Claims 7-12 remain in this application. Claims 7 and 10 have been amended.

The Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 9 and 12, if rewritten in independent form including the base claim, is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 7-8 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christie et al. in view of Clarke et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest features of the first and second destination point codes, as described in claims 7 and 10.

The present invention is directed to a node in an MTP network for transferring messages having differing lengths. The node includes a first destination point code for connecting to a first link which supports short messages, and a second destination point code for connecting to a second link for supporting long messages, which are longer than that supported by the current MTP level 2 and up to a maximum length supported by SSCOP.

The Office Action states that Applicant's argument presented in an Amendment filed May 12, 2003 is "irrelevant with respect to the rejected claims and the present Specification, since the feature of 'first and second *destination* point codes' has no support in the original disclosure." Applicant respectfully disagrees. On page 2, line 30 of the subject Specification, it is stated that "[r]outing in the MTP is based on the so-called *destination* (signaling) *point code* (DPC) which identifies the destination of a *message signaling unit* (MSU) in an MTP network". As defined in the subject Specification, a signaling point code refers to a destination point code.

Additionally, the paragraph starting on line 18 of page 4 states that each node "is assigned a second point code (in addition to its *narrowband* point code), which will be called *broadband* point code, identifying its enhanced functions, i.e., those which can generate long messages." When read in context, point codes, whether narrowband or broadband, describe destination point codes and not origination point codes. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed first and second destination point codes are in fact supported in the original disclosure.

In the outstanding Office Action, the language of the claims which calls for a first destination point code and a second destination point code is ignored, and the rejection is made with respect to a first and second signaling point codes instead. Applicant respectfully submits that this is improper, and requests that the Examiner reconsider the patentability of the present

invention as described in claims 7 and 10, specifically with respect to the first and second destination point codes, and based on arguments presented below.

The Christie et al. reference relates to a telecommunications system including an enhanced signal transfer point (STP) which is operable to convert the destination codes for signaling messages directed to a plurality of signaling points. The signaling messages contain codes that identify origination signaling points and destination signaling points. The origination signaling point and the destination signaling point of Christie et al. are cited in the Office Action as disclosing the claimed "first and second signaling point codes" of the present invention (see, for example, Paper No. 11, page 2, third paragraph).

In the present invention, a node includes two destination point codes, namely, a first destination point code and a second destination point code, as clearly described in claims 7 and 10. As such, the first (or origination) signaling point code and the second (or destination) signaling point code of Christie et al. do not disclose or suggest the two first and second destination point codes of the present invention.

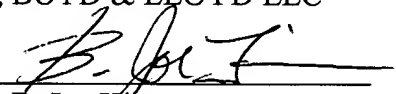
Thus, even if the Clarke et al. reference were combined with Christie et al. as suggested in the Office Action, the combination would merely result in a system including an STP that handles messages having an origination signaling point and a destination signaling point and in which data sent on a SS7 network is carried at 273 octets maximum. The combination, however, still would not disclose or suggest the first destination point code and a second destination point code for connecting to a second link for supporting long messages. For these reasons, claims 7 and 10, and claims 8-9 and 11-12, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that, neither the Christie et al. nor Clarke et al. references, either alone or in combination with each other, teach or suggest the invention as presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

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